case and the Court of Civil Judge, Panipat restrained the bank from making payment to the beneficiary. On appeal the Additional District Judge vacated the stay which was again challenged. The litigation between the beneficiary and principal debtor continued and on 7.3.2002 the High Court, Chandigarh passed an order in favour of beneficiary. Since the stay was vacated by the High Court the negotiating bank sought payment of the LC and the amount of US$ 285000 was paid on 26.3.2002. There was no negligence on the part of the bank officials and payment was made after the review petition filed by the applicant was also dismissed by the court.

Accuisition of M/s Jessop and Co. Ltd.

3735. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Corporation Bank Officer's Organisation affiliated to AIBOC has submitted a memoranda to C.M.D. Corporation Bank regarding acquisition of M/s Jessop and Co. Ltd. by a private bidder whose account is at present NPA of Rs. 11 crore with Corporation Bank;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any action to prohibit NPA borrower to bid for public sector banks without clearing its NPA dues; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be furnished.